High--Contrast Imaging in the L-band with MMT/Clio and the 6pc Survey: Exploring the Closest Exoplanets through Angular Differential Imaging

Daniel Apai (apai at as.arizona.edu), Univ. of Arizona Meyer Michael, Univ. of Arizona Phil Hinz, Univ. of Arizona Ari Heinze, Univ. of Arizona Suresh Sivanandam, Univ. of Arizona Matthew Kenworthy, Univ. of Arizona

I will describe the novel Clio high-contrast camera at the MMT and report on the first results from three ongoing L-band exoplanet surveys for giant planets surrounding: 1) white dwarfs (PI: Sivanandam); 2) young Solar-type stars (PI: Heinze); and 3) all stars within 6 pc (PI: Apai), which I will discuss in more depth. Clio is uniquely sensitive to older planets enabling us to image extrasolar giant planets between 2 and 30 AU from their host stars in the solar neighborhood. The 6pc Survey will provide a census of massive giant planets and planetary-mass brown dwarfs orbiting all stars within 6 pc from the Sun. Identified exoplanets will serve as prime targets for follow-up observations, while the observed mass distribution of companions as a function of orbital radius, will provide powerful constraints on theories of binary star and planet formation.